

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 481

By Bailey

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Coach Dee Harris on the celebration of his ninetieth birthday.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pay tribute to those citizens who are celebrating special occasions in their estimable lives; and

WHEREAS, Coach Dee Harris recently celebrated his ninetieth birthday with his family and many friends, commemorating this significant milestone as yet another precious souvenir of life's rich pageant; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of White County High School (WCHS), Dee Harris enjoyed an outstanding career as a high school football coach from 1954-1976, including eighteen years spent coaching his alma mater; and

WHEREAS, after a brief stint as an assistant coach at Pulaski in 1954, Coach Harris served as the head coach for the Watertown High School football team from 1955-1957 and was named Mid-State Coach of the Year in 1957; and

WHEREAS, in 1958, he returned home to White County to coach his alma mater and was tremendously successful in that role; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure at WCHS, one of Coach Harris's teams was ranked second in the State by the Associated Press and United Press International; and

WHEREAS, he was twice selected to coach in the TSSAA All-Star Game; seven of his players were selected to play in those All-Star games; two of his players advanced to play in the National Football League (NFL) for the Miami Dolphins; and one of his players became an NFL coach; and

WHEREAS, from 1959-1961, Coach Harris's teams lost only one game; his career bowl record is 5-2-1; and

WHEREAS, he has received the TSSAA Service Award and the Football Foundation Hall of Fame Service Award for his many contributions to high school football; and

WHEREAS, in appreciation of Coach Harris's inspired leadership of the Warriors on the gridiron, the football field at WCHS has been named in his honor; and

WHEREAS, in 2002, the City of Sparta proclaimed "Dee Harris Day" to coincide with his induction into the WCHS Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, Dee Harris attended Middle Tennessee State University on a football scholarship and earned his Bachelor of Science and master's degrees there; and

WHEREAS, as Coach Harris enters his tenth decade, he is still an active and productive member of society; and

WHEREAS, we wish to grasp this golden opportunity to specially recognize one of Tennessee's most outstanding citizens on this very special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we join with Coach Dee Harris in celebrating his ninetieth birthday, salute his dynamic coaching career, and extend to this extraordinary gentleman our best wishes for many happy returns of the day.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.